

When Newark Was Younger

EARLY CAMPING DAYS

(Photographs Courtesy of Charles R. Scott)

Tents lined shore at Lake Wawayanda around 1902 when Dr. G. Roe Lewis of Belleville, first camp physician, took the above photograph. On same site was built the lodge (below) which was presented by former campers and painted by boys who also gathered stones for fireplace and retaining wall. A cable ferry shuttled between mainland and island where sleeping tents were pitched.



Leaders at Wawayanda in 1902. YMCA camping, then in infancy, now enrolls over five thousand boys in over a dozen Jersey camps—Kiamasha, Arrowhead, Washington, Oceanickon, Acquackanank, Kittatinny, Minisink, Wilson, and others.



Wawayanda's first life guards pictured in 1905 shortly after being trained in rescue methods by a representative of the U. S. Volunteer Life Saving Corps.

VACATION is over, and Newark boys and girls by the hundreds have come home from Summer camps, healthy, self-reliant and bubbling over with tales of good times outdoors. Many of their grand-dads, listening, are carried back in memory to pioneer camping days, for New Jersey is the home of Camp Wawayanda, whose history goes back to the Summer of 1886 at Lake Wawayanda, west of Greenwood Lake. With Camp Dudley at Lake Champlain, the other YMCA camp, it shares the honor of being the Summer camp with the longest continuous history in the United States.

Both camps were started in 1885 when Sumner F. Dudley of East Orange, volunteer worker, led a party of seven boys from Newburgh, on a camping trip to Orange Lake, six miles back from the Hudson River. Mr. Dudley, a surgical instrument manufacturer in Brooklyn, was then a member of the New York and New Jersey State YMCA committees. A borrowed tent, a few cooking utensils and a rented row boat were all the equipment that early camp boasted. But the experience was such a happy one, that George Peck of Newburgh, one of the group, has camped every Summer for 63 years since.

The next year Mr. Peck and Mr. Dudley, leading a party of 23 boys, some of them from this area, pitched their tents on the twin islands in Lake Wawayanda. In five years the camp grew so large that in 1891 it was moved to Lake Champlain. Those earliest weeks of camping at Wawayanda were truly rugged. Boys from Newark, Orange and Plainfield were among the pioneers who made the long train journey to Warwick, N. Y., and the eight-mile tramp up the mountain to the camp ground.

MORE than half of the 70 boys that first season on Lake Champlain were from New Jersey. Charles T. Kilborne, president of the Orange YMCA, for many years chairman of the New Jersey Boys' Work Committee, accompanied Mr. Dudley as Assistant Leader.

Mr. Dudley and Mr. Kilborne set the standards that have been a part of Wawayanda camping ever since. Their object in devoting their Summers to camping with boys was to give the campers a jolly, wholesome experience outdoors in which there would be many opportunities to develop reverence for God and a sense of spiritual purpose in life. So, along with the boating, swimming, fishing, baseball, excursions and the shared duties of camp life, lessons, and evening.

ing by the camp fire at the edge of the lake, when college airs and popular songs of the day were followed by Gospel songs and hymns. Quiet vesper meetings before bed time, by the light of moon and stars, made religion a natural part of every day camp life.

Interest of Newark boys in the camp was intensified when the local YMCA started its boys work in 1893, under Charles R. Scott. Mr. Scott later was appointed State Secretary for Boys Work, a position he held until his retirement in 1934.

When Mr. Dudley died in 1897, Mr. Peck became the director of the camp on Lake Champlain which was named Camp Dudley. Mr. Kilborne, as chairman of the New Jersey Boys' Work Committee, and Mr. Scott as Boys' Work secretary, shared in the development of the camp program which steadily attracted greater numbers of boys.

BY 1901, Camp Dudley had become so large, that Mr. Scott and the New Jersey boys returned to Lake Wawayanda to found Jersey Boys Camp. A second group of New Jersey boys went to Lake Champlain that August but in succeeding years YMCA camping for Jersey boys was centered at Lake Wawayanda. That camp is remembered fondly by scores of men prominent in New Jersey today.

The whole experience formed a great contrast to the organized camps of the



Ayer Hall, purchased in 1919 and maintained by the Women's Auxiliaries, is guest house and center of "Y" conferences throughout the year. It was originally the old Slater mansion, built in 1874.

present, not in the fundamental ideals, but in the physical environment. The exciting trip to camp began for the boys when they gathered at the North Newark Station of the Erie for a two-hour ride. Getting off the train at Greenwood Lake Glena, they crossed by launch to Brown's Hotel, then piled aboard a huge, springless farm wagon for the long pull up Haystack Mountain. The narrow dirt roads became progressively worse, until the boys had to alight and walk the few remaining miles through the forest. Each boy brought with him his blankets and raincoat, warm underwear, long black stockings and extra shirts in a strong wooden box.

The camp rules were very few, but strict, particularly the rules affecting water safety. No boy, on pain of expulsion, was allowed to enter the water unless a member of the camp staff specifically appointed for the purpose was on hand to watch. Frequent swimming periods were provided and from 1905 instruction in Life Saving under the auspices of the United States Volunteer Life Saving Corps was a fundamental part of the program. At aquatic meets, with awards in all age groups, the boys competed in teams and individually. Among the award winners in 1905 were William Wachenfeld, of Orange (later Justice of the New Jersey Supreme Court), William Park and Raymond Smith of Newark, and Fred Crane, later publisher of The Elizabeth Daily Journal.

In spite of the watchfulness of the staff and the emphasis on safety, many parents were uneasy about sending their boys to rough it in the woods. They were afraid of measles, snakes, insects, mountain thunder storms, poison ivy, sleeping outdoors, and head colds. The fact that "Dad" and "Mother" Scott spent entire Summers at their private campsite adjacent to the regular camp year after year with three little children, reassured many, and the youngest camper of all was Hugh Scott who became a Waway-

anda boy at the age of seven weeks! The continuous, careful supervision of the boys, the emphasis upon wholesome living and character building, gradually overcame distrust and fear. The Women's Auxiliaries of the YMCA did much to build confidence in the camp. When, in 1910, the Camp Directors Association of America was formed, with members from heads of private camps, YMHA's, Boy Scouts, churches and many other organizations engaged in camping, "Dad" Scott became its first president.

Wawayanda, a Pioneer in Outdoor Life, Set Pattern for Youth Summer Camps

BY MIRIAM STUDLEY

Principal New Jersey History Library, Newark Public Library

THE earliest campers looked with scorn on camps where cot-beds and board floors were provided, considering them luxuries, if not actually effeminate. Double-decker canvas cots were soon introduced, but one of the camp's greatest privileges was for parties to go off a little distance from the tent rows to sleep out under the stars. With blanket rolls over their shoulders the older and stronger campers took long tramps through the woods, to Newark's new reservoirs, to Warwick, to Sugar Loaf Mountain, Bearfort Fire Tower and Lake Mombasha. Abandoned mines, lumbering camps and dairy farms were the objectives of other hikes through groves of hemlock and thickets of rhododendron, white with bloom.

As the years went on, a greater range of activities was developed in the camp. A tent became the Camp Library, where a boy could relax over a good book, or the Youth's Companion. A camp paper, The "Wawayanda Whirlwind," edited by Walter H. Wones and the boys, still is published. The resourceful young leaders helped the campers prepare evening entertainments that took the form of debates, mock trials, magic and tricks. In 1913 the boys built an outdoor stage

for dramatics, another year an outdoor chapel. Wawayanda has always been a singing camp, from the day in 1901 when Jersey Boys Camp first opened and "Uncle Ed" Besch of Orange presented a small folding organ. Bird study began in 1903 when Miss Myra Park of Paterson gave a hundred colored pictures of New Jersey birds and the "Wantonit" (want-to-know-it) Club was popular with boy naturalists. A piano was provided by other generous friends and leaders with musical training helped the boys form an orchestra.

Forestry and conservation were introduced to the campers in visits from State Forester Gaskill and local fire wardens. The campers built Wawayanda's first council ring when "Chief" Ernest Thompson Seton told his stories of "Wild Animals I Have Known" at the camp fire. Wood working, and woodcraft, archery, bird banding, first aid, surveying and map reading were taught by the volunteer counselors. The leaders, many of them former campers, were engineers, doctors, teachers, men from all walks of life who loved boys and wanted to help them learn by doing.

AMONG the early campers were Dr. Everett N. Case of Plainfield, now president of Colgate University, J. Har-

mon Pleas in Paterson, is still active in YMCA work, a director of the Paterson YMCA and member of its Boys' Work Committee. John Al Ledlie, a camper since 1919 at Wawayanda and director for many years, is now National Secretary for YMCA Camping.

The Summers at Camp Wawayanda became such an important part in the lives of thousands of Jersey boys, that when the land around the lake was sold to the New Jersey Zinc Company, A. L. Kennedy of Plainfield, Chairman of the Camp Committee, and William J. Couse of Asbury Park determined that the "Y" must have a permanent camp site of its own. Fortunately, the Slater Estate near Andover was for sale, and scores of generous "Y" supporters contributed money to buy it, the initial gifts towards this goal being received from Mr. and Mrs. Archibald H. Bull of Elizabeth, and Samuel Hird of Passaic. Devoted friends of the "Y" loaned enough to complete the purchase in time for camp to open at the "New Lake Wawayanda" in 1919. This Summer, Camp Wawayanda, under Alden Eberly as Director and Henry E. Hird of Ridgewood as Camp Committee Chairman, has celebrated its thirtieth anniversary on the present site. 1950 will be the golden anniversary of Jersey Boys' Camp.

The camping movement initiated in the 1880s, has spread so that at present, in New Jersey alone, there are nearly a hundred Summer camps for boys and girls. The Central Atlantic Area of the YMCA has some 25 camps under state, city and county committees, and the influence of its camps has spread widely. Training courses in camp leadership, planned by Alden Eberly and Clarence G. Moser, are attracting delegates to Camp Wawayanda from the far corners of the earth. Rotary clubs in this district plan to provide scholarships for foreign students who will carry back to their homelands the experiences in character building and joyous living at Wawayanda.



Charles R. Scott narrating "The Greatest Story Ever Told" to 1901 group. Morning Bible lessons, hymns sung around campfires and evening prayers made religion a natural part of campers' life.



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It's an endless improvement and the "OVERHEAD DOOR" will rise straight up and slide 12-14-16-18-20-22-24-26-28-30-32-34-36-38-40-42-44-46-48-50-52-54-56-58-60-62-64-66-68-70-72-74-76-78-80-82-84-86-88-90-92-94-96-98-100-102-104-106-108-110-112-114-116-118-120-122-124-126-128-130-132-134-136-138-140-142-144-146-148-150-152-154-156-158-160-162-164-166-168-170-172-174-176-178-180-182-184-186-188-190-192-194-196-198-200-202-204-206-208-210-212-214-216-218-220-222-224-226-228-230-232-234-236-238-240-242-244-246-248-250-252-254-256-258-260-262-264-266-268-270-272-274-276-278-280-282-284-286-288-290-292-294-296-298-300-302-304-306-308-310-312-314-316-318-320-322-324-326-328-330-332-334-336-338-340-342-344-346-348-350-352-354-356-358-360-362-364-366-368-370-372-374-376-378-380-382-384-386-388-390-392-394-396-398-400-402-404-406-408-410-412-414-416-418-420-422-424-426-428-430-432-434-436-438-440-442-444-446-448-450-452-454-456-458-460-462-464-466-468-470-472-474-476-478-480-482-484-486-488-490-492-494-496-498-500-502-504-506-508-510-512-514-516-518-520-522-524-526-528-530-532-534-536-538-540-542-544-546-548-550-552-554-556-558-560-562-564-566-568-570-572-574-576-578-580-582-584-586-588-590-592-594-596-598-600-602-604-606-608-610-612-614-616-618-620-622-624-626-628-630-632-634-636-638-640-642-644-646-648-650-652-654-656-658-660-662-664-666-668-670-672-674-676-678-680-682-684-686-688-690-692-694-696-698-700-702-704-706-708-710-712-714-716-718-720-722-724-726-728-730-732-734-736-738-740-742-744-746-748-750-752-754-756-758-760-762-764-766-768-770-772-774-776-778-780-782-784-786-788-790-792-794-796-798-800-802-804-806-808-810-812-814-816-818-820-822-824-826-828-830-832-834-836-838-840-842-844-846-848-850-852-854-856-858-860-862-864-866-868-870-872-874-876-878-880-882-884-886-888-890-892-894-896-898-900-902-904-906-908-910-912-914-916-918-920-922-924-926-928-930-932-934-936-938-940-942-944-946-948-950-952-954-956-958-960-962-964-966-968-970-972-974-976-978-980-982-984-986-988-990-992-994-996-998-1000-1002-1004-1006-1008-1010-1012-1014-1016-1018-1020-1022-1024-1026-1028-1030-1032-1034-1036-1038-1040-1042-1044-1046-1048-1050-1052-1054-1056-1058-1060-1062-1064-1066-1068-1070-1072-1074-1076-1078-1080-1082-1084-1086-1088-1090-1092-1094-1096-1098-1100-1102-1104-1106-1108-1110-1112-1114-1116-1118-1120-1122-1124-1126-1128-1130-1132-1134-1136-1138-1140-1142-1144-1146-1148-1150-1152-1154-1156-1158-1160-1162-1164-1166-1168-1170-1172-1174-1176-1178-1180-1182-1184-1186-1188-1190-1192-1194-1196-1198-1200-1202-1204-1206-1208-1210-1212-1214-1216-1218-1220-1222-1224-1226-1228-1230-1232-1234-1236-1238-1240-1242-1244-1246-1248-1250-1252-1254-1256-1258-1260-1262-1264-1266-1268-1270-1272-1274-1276-1278-1280-1282-1284-1286-1288-1290-1292-1294-1296-1298-1300-1302-1304-1306-1308-1310-1312-1314-1316-1318-1320-1322-1324-1326-1328-1330-1332-1334-1336-1338-1340-1342-1344-1346-1348-1350-1352-1354-1356-1358-1360-1362-1364-1366-1368-1370-1372-1374-1376-1378-1380-1382-1384-1386-1388-1390-1392-1394-1396-1398-1400-1402-1404-1406-1408-1410-1412-1414-1416-1418-1420-1422-1424-1426-1428-1430-1432-1434-1436-1438-1440-1442-1444-1446-1448-1450-1452-1454-1456-1458-1460-1462-1464-1466-1468-1470-1472-1474-1476-1478-1480-1482-1484-1486-1488-1490-1492-1494-1496-1498-1500-1502-1504-1506-1508-1510-1512-1514-1516-1518-1520-1522-1524-1526-1528-1530-1532-1534-1536-1538-1540-1542-1544-1546-1548-1550-1552-1554-1556-1558-1560-1562-1564-1566-1568-1570-1572-1574-1576-1578-1580-1582-1584-1586-1588-1590-1592-1594-1596-1598-1600-1602-1604-1606-1608-1610-1612-1614-1616-1618-1620-1622-1624-1626-1628-1630-1632-1634-1636-1638-1640-1642-1644-1646-1648-1650-1652-1654-1656-1658-1660-1662-1664-1666-1668-1670-1672-1674-1676-1678-1680-1682-1684-1686-1688-1690-1692-1694-1696-1698-1700-1702-1704-1706-1708-1710-1712-1714-1716-1718-1720-1722-1724-1726-1728-1730-1732-1734-1736-1738-1740-1742-1744-1746-1748-1750-1752-1754-1756-1758-1760-1762-1764-1766-1768-1770-1772-1774-1776-1778-1780-1782-1784-1786-1788-1790-1792-1794-1796-1798-1800-1802-1804-1806-1808-1810-1812-1814-1816-1818-1820-1822-1824-1826-1828-1830-1832-1834-1836-1838-1840-1842-1844-1846-1848-1850-1852-1854-1856-1858-1860-1862-1864-1866-1868-1870-1872-1874-1876-1878-1880-1882-1884-1886-1888-1890-1892-1894-1896-1898-1900-1902-1904-1906-1908-1910-1912-1914-1916-1918-1920-1922-1924-1926-1928-1930-1932-1934-1936-1938-1940-1942-1944-1946-1948-1950-1952-1954-1956-1958-1960-1962-1964-1966-1968-1970-1972-1974-1976-1978-1980-1982-1984-1986-1988-1990-1992-1994-1996-1998-2000-2002-2004-2006-2008-2010-2012-2014-2016-2018-2020-2022-2024-2026-2028-2030-2032-2034-2036-2038-2040-2042-2044-2046-2048-2050-2052-2054-2056-2058-2060-2062-2064-2066-2068-2070-2072-2074-2076-2078-2080-2082-2084-2086-2088-2090-2092-2094-2096-2098-2100-2102-2104-2106-2108-2110-2112-2114-2116-2118-2120-2122-2124-2126-2128-2130-2132-2134-2136-2138-2140-2142-2144-2146-2148-2150-2152-2154-2156-2158-2160-2162-2164-2166-2168-2170-2172-2174-2176-2178-2180-2182-2184-2186-2188-2190-2192-2194-2196-2198-2200-2202-2204-2206-2208-2210-2212-2214-2216-2218-2220-2222-2224-2226-2228-2230-2232-2234-2236-2238-2240-2242-2244-2246-2248-2250-2252-2254-2256-2258-2260-2262-2264-2266-2268-2270-2272-2274-2276-2278-2280-2282-2284-2286-2288-2290-2292-2294-2296-2298-2300-2302-2304-2306-2308-2310-2312-2314-2316-2318-2320-2322-2324-2326-2328-2330-2332-2334-2336-2338-2340-2342-2344-2346-2348-2350-2352-2354-2356-2358-2360-2362-2364-2366-2368-2370-2372-2374-2376-2378-2380-2382-2384-2386-2388-2390-2392-2394-2396-2398-2400-2402-2404-2406-2408-2410-2412-2414-2416-2418-2420-2422-2424-2426-2428-2430-2432-2434-2436-2438-2440-2442-2444-2446-2448-2450-2452-2454-2456-2458-2460-2462-2464-2466-2468-2470-2472-2474-2476-2478-2480-2482-2484-2486-2488-2490-2492-2494-2496-2498-2500-2502-2504-2506-2508-2510-2512-2514-2516-2518-2520-2522-2524-2526-2528-2530-2532-2534-2536-2538-2540-2542-2544-2546-2548-2550-2552-2554-2556-2558-2560-2562-2564-2566-2568-2570-2572-2574-2576-2578-2580-2582-2584-2586-2588-2590-2592-2594-2596-2598-2600-2602-2604-2606-2608-2610-2612-2614-2616-2618-2620-2622-2624-2626-2628-2630-2632-2634-2636-2638-2640-2642-2644-2646-2648-2650-2652-2654-2656-2658-2660-2662-2664-2666-2668-2670-2672-2674-2676-2678-2680-2682-2684-2686-2688-2690-2692-2694-2696-2698-2700-2702-2704-2706-2708-2710-2712-2714-2716-2718-2720-2722-2724-2726-2728-2730-2732-2734-2736-2738-2740-2742-2744-2746-2748-2750-2752-2754-2756-2758-2760-2762-2764-2766-2768-2770-2772-2774-2776-2778-2780-2782-2784-2786-2788-2790-2792-2794-2796-2798-2800-2802-2804-2806-2808-2810-2812-2814-2816-2818-2820-2822-2824-2826-2828-2830-2832-2834-2836-2838-2840-2842-2844-2846-2848-2850-2852-2854-2856-2858-2860-2862-2864-2866-2868-2870-2872-2874-2876-2878-2880-2882-2884-2886-2888-2890-2892-2894-2896-2898-2900-2902-2904-2906-2908-2910-2912-2914-2916-2918-2920-2922-2924-2926-2928-2930-2932-2934-2936-2938-2940-2942-2944-2946-2948-2950-2952-2954-2956-2958-2960-2962-2964-2966-2968-2970-2972-2974-2976-2978-2980-2982-2984-2986-2988-2990-2992-2994-2996-2998-3000-3002-3004-3006-3008-3010-3012-3014-3016-3018-3020-3022-3024-3026-3028-3030-3032-3034-3036-3038-3040-3042-3044-3046-3048-3050-3052-3054-3056-3058-3060-3062-3064-3066-3068-3070-3072-3074-3076-3078-3080-3082-3084-3086-3088-3090-3092-3094-3096-3098-3100-3102-3104-3106-3108-3110-3112-3114-3116-3118-3120-3122-3124-3126-3128-3130-3132-3134-3136-3138-3140-3142-3144-3146-3148-3150-3152-3154-3156-3158-3160-3162-3164-3166-3168-3170-3172-3174-3176-3178-3180-3182-3184-3186-3188-3190-3192-3194-3196-3198-3200-3202-3204-3206-3208-3210-3212-3214-3216-3218-3220-3222-3224-3226-3228-3230-3232-3234-3236-3238-3240-3242-3244-3246-3248-3250-3252-3254-3256-3258-3260-3262-3264-3266-3268-3270-3272-3274-3276-3278-3280-3282-3284-3286-3288-3290-3292-3294-3296-3298-3300-3302-3304-3306-3308-3310-3312-3314-3316-3318-3320-3322-3324-3326-3328-3330-3332-3334-3336-3338-3340-3342-3344-3346-3348-3350-3352-3354-3356-3358-3360-3362-3364-3366-3368-3370-3372-3374-3376-3378-3380-3382-3384-3386-3388-3390-3392-3394-3396-3398-3400-3402-3404-3406-3408-3410-3412-3414-3416-3418-3420-3422-3424-3426-3428-3430-3432-3434-3436-3438-3440-3442-3444-3446-3448-3450-3452-3454-3456-3458-3460-3462-3464-3466-3468-3470-3472-3474-3476-3478-3480-3482-3484-3486-3488-3490-3492-3494-3496-3498-3500-3502-3504-3506-3508-3510-3512-3514-3516-3518-3520-3522-3524-3526-3528-3530-3532-3534-3536-3538-3540-3542-3544-3546-3548-3550-3552-3554-3556-3558-3560-3562-3564-3566-3568-3570-3572-3574-3576-3578-3580-3582-3584-3586-3588-3590-3592-3594-3596-3598-3600-3602-3604-3606-3608-3610-3612-3614-3616-3618-3620-3622-3624-3626-3628-3630-3632-3634-3636-3638-3640-3642-3644-3646-3648-3650-3652-3654-3656-3658-3660-3662-3664-3666-3668-3670-3672-3674-3676-3678-3680-3682-3684-3686-3688-3690-3692-3694-3696-3698-3700-3702-3704-3706-3708-3710-3712-3714-3716-3718-3720-3722-3724-3726-3728-3730-3732-3734-3736-3738-3740-3742-3744-3746-3748-3750-3752-3754-3756-3758-3760-3762-3764-3766-3768-3770-3772-3774-3776-3778-3780-3782-3784-3786-3788-3790-3792-3794-3796-3798-3800-3802-3804-3806-3808-3810-3812-3814-3816-3818-3820-3822-3824-3826-3828-3830-3832-3834-3836-3838-3840-3842-3844-3846-3848-3850-3852-3854-3856-3858-3860-3862-3864-3866-3868-3870-3872-3874-3876-3878-3880-3882-3884-3886-3888-3890-3892-3894-3896-3898-3900-3902-3904-3906-3908-3910-3912-3914-3916-3918-3920-3922-3924-3926-3928-3930-3932-3934-3936-3938-3940-3942-3944-3946-3948-3950-3952-3954-3956-3958-3960-3962-3964-3966-3968-3970-3972-3974-3976-3978-3980-3982-3984-3986-3988-3990-3992-3994-3996-3998-4000-4002-4004-4006-4008-4010-4012-4014-4016-4018-4020-4022-4024-4026-4028-4030-4032-4034-4036-4038-4040-4042-4044-4046-4048-4050-4052-4054-4056-4058-4060-4062-4064-4066-4068-4070-4072-4074-4076-4078-4080-4082-4084-4086-4088-4090-4092-4094-4096-4098-4100-4102-4104-4106-4108-4110-4112-4114-4116-4118-4120-4122-4124-4126-4128-4130-4132-4134-4136-4138-4140-4142-4144-4146-4148-4150-4152-4154-4156-4158-4160-4162-